

Human Ethology Newsletter No. 8
March 1975

Comments

For those who are curious, there are now over 350 people from twenty-six countries on the mailing list. (That is every continent except Antarctica. Anybody interested in doing a study on isolation?) However, the Roster of Human Ethologists is not that large, so if you would drop me a note stating your INTERESTS and recent ARTICLES (especially those articles that refer to other articles) we will be glad to add the information to the roster. Since a number of researchers have just submitted these comments we will wait at least one more issue before finishing the first round on the Roster.

In some instances groups are working on an area (see note from Dr. Argyle below). When such information is received we will print it as Notes on Research. Because results, methodologies, etc. of interest to human ethologists are printed in so many different journals it would probably help researchers if you would write to them directly suggesting references or comments.

Meetings

Because the mail is irregular we will try to fit in any 'late' papers to the international meeting in Sheffield, England. At the Animal Behavior Society meeting there is a printed program and a definite time schedule so late papers can not be added.

The England meeting is more flexible, but please submit your abstracts as soon as possible. If you can bring thirty to fifty copies of your paper to England then only a short overview need be given by you during your presentation and more time can be devoted to a discussion of the paper.

At both the ABS and England meetings the total time for short papers will be strictly limited to twenty minutes. If you want to allow time for questions please limit your presentation to fifteen minutes. Please note that at the England meeting time is provided for informal discussion groups. If you think your paper will lead to further discussion of some topic or in some area, please send Robert Marvin a title so that a time and a room can be scheduled. Don't be bashful! In the past these gatherings have proven to be the most exciting and valuable part of the total workshop, but let us know so that we can inform others ahead of time.

A form for rooms at the ABS meeting is attached, but only for newsletter subscribers in North America. Please mail them to the address indicated.

At the ABS meeting this year we will propose only one workshop: "The Relationship Between Cognitive and Observable Behaviors." There are a number of other symposia and workshops which were proposed by animal ethologists and some of these are certainly of interest to human ethologists. To date, the proposals are:

Keynote Speaker: (May 25) Audrey Manning (University of Edinburgh)

Symposia: 1. "Two Environments, One Behavior: What Does it Mean?" (May 24)
(Featured Symposium--Emphasis will be on fish behavior) Organized
by Ernst Reese

2. "Behavior and Ecology of Wolves" (May 23) Organized by Erich Klinghammer
3. "Quantitative Methods in Ethology" (May 23) Organized by David Dunham
4. "Behavioral Development in Invertebrates" (May 25) Organized by Howard Topoff

Workshops: 1. "Non-verbal Communication" (May 24) Organized by R. Stimson Wilcox
2. "Systems Diagrams in Ethology" (May 24) Organized by Dennis Sustare

Other meetings

At the Society for Research in Child Development meeting 10-13 April, in Denver, Colorado, Robert Hinde will be an invited speaker presenting "The Comparative Study of Mother-Infant Relationships". His talk will be introduced by William Charlesworth. There will also be two sessions devoted to human ethology:

(1) Research Reports Ethological Studies

Chair: Millard C. Madsen (University of California, Los Angeles)

- An Ethological Study of the Development of the Forms of Smiling. J. A. Cheyne (University of Waterloo)
- An Investigation of Lorenz's "Babyness." William Fullard, Anne Reiling, Craig Love, and Fowler Shaw (Temple University)
- An Ethological Analysis of Nonverbal Inhibitors of Aggressive Behavior in Elementary School Children. Harvey J. Ginsburg (Southwest Texas State University) and Vicki A. Pollman (University of Houston)
- An Ethological Analysis of Dominance Relations among Young Children. Floyd F. Strayer (York University) and Janet Strayer (Simon Fraser University)
- Approach Behaviors between Preschool Children: An Ethological Study. Gail A. Wasserman (City University of New York)
- Sex Differences in Aggression: Phylogenetic and Enculturation Perspectives. Ronald P. Rohner (University of Connecticut)

(2) Symposium Human Ethology: Examples and Problems

Chair: Daniel G. Freedman (University of Chicago)

- Form Perception, Innate Form Preferences, and Visually-Mediated Head-Turning in the Human Neonate. Carolyn Goren (Bernallilo County Medical Complex, Albuquerque, New Mexico)
- Infants' Reaction to Dilated and Constricted Pupils of an Adult Stranger in a Naturalistic Setting: A Preliminary Investigation. Janet Bare Ashear (University of Chicago)
- Facial Behavior of Preschool Children. Lavy Abramovitch (University of Virginia)
- Social Hierarchies and Same Sex Peer Groups. Richard Parker (University of Chicago)
- An Ethological Study of Dominance Ordering in a Group of Human Adolescents. Richard C. Williams (University of Chicago)
- Discussants: Robert S. Marvin (University of Virginia) and Donald R. Omark, (University of Illinois)

In addition we have requested a meeting room where those interested in human ethology could gather. This has been tentatively scheduled for the Statler Room (Hilton Hotel) from 2:30 to 4:30 on Friday, April 11, but check the bulletin board or final program announcements for definite time and place. Hope to meet some of you there.

Past meetings

It was reported to us by Dr. Jaan Valsiner, Pärnu maantee 40-6, 200 001 Tallinn, Estonian SSR, USSR that an All-Union Conference on ethology, zoopsychology and comparative psychology was recently held in Moscow. He said that the following papers might be of interest to human ethologists, and indicated that he would try to make the papers available to anybody who wrote to him. The papers are in Russian but abstracts in English will appear in a future issue of the newsletter

- L. V. Jegorova. Orienting behavior in one-year old orang-utang.
- A. I. Katz. "Toolmaking" in chimpanzee.
- M. A. Gerd. Formation of new types of behavior in animals living in contact with man.
- K. E. Fabri. Information transmission types among animals and roots of human interaction.
- K. K. Platonov. On the role of work in the "human minimum".
- S. E. Novoselova. Anthropogenetically important types of mental traits in primates.

There are probably numerous other papers which you present at meetings which might be of interest to human ethologists. If you would send us an (approximately) 100 word abstract and your address we will print the abstracts in the newsletter.

Notes on Research

Michael Argyle, Peter Collett, and David Clarke at the Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford, are starting a project into "the sequential structure of social behaviour applied to social skills and group conflict". It is proposed to develop rigorous statistical and experimental procedures on episodal structures, and the generative rules, for sequences of social interaction. This will be done at the level of speech acts, bodily movement, and social episodes. Studies will be carried out to discover how social behaviour is segmented and categorised by the participants, what the rules are, and what its meaning is, for different kinds of episodes. This will be done by such methods as asking subjects to segment video-taped behaviour sequences, stopping tapes and eliciting plans, attributions and rules, asking for judgements of experimentally-prepared sequences, and mathematical analysis of coded sequences. This would have implications, which will be explored, for training in social skills, and in improving communication between social groups, e.g. different age-groups and social classes. This work would extend the theoretical analysis of social behaviour by exploring its similarities with language and with games.

Journals

Two additional journals that may from time to time accept human ethological articles are: Semiotica and Human Development. The former is particularly interested in non-verbal communication and the latter in short idea papers with some data (approximately 16 double-spaced pages). Their addresses are:

Semiotica
Mouton & Company
P. O. Box 1132
The Hague
NETHERLANDS

Human Development
25 Arnold Bocklin-Strasse, 4000
Basel 11
SWITZERLAND

If there are additional journals please send us the pertinent details including: a comment on the type of article that they prefer, length, and language of publication.

Publications available

Daniel G. Freedman, Committee on Human Development, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, has available a pamphlet on "Empirical Studies in Human Ethology" which is a compilation of a series of minor research papers that have come out of his lab. The pamphlet can be obtained for 50¢ by writing to him.

Dr. Gerald Young, Children's Hospital Medical Centre, Harvard Medical School, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 (together with Therese Décarie) has assembled "An Ethology-Based Catalogue of Facial/Vocal Behaviors in Infancy."

Comments on Human Ethology by Ewan C. Grant, Basic Medical Sciences Group, Chelsea College, University of London, London SW3 6LX, ENGLAND.

I would find myself in agreement with much of what was said about Human Ethology in Newsletter No. 6. There has been a tendency in the past to play down the theoretical background of the human ethologists and describe them as behavioural scientists using a particular technique. I doubt that this was ever the case and certainly would now feel that the theoretical stance needs stating. I would suggest that it is the biological background that is important and that, although we who work with man may need a forum of our own simply because of the intrinsic interest of the beast, it is the use of the phrase 'human ethology', as though this was something completely different, that causes our difficulties. If we take this point is it then necessary to go any further than the classical definition of areas of interest as stated by Tinbergen (1963?) i.e. we are people who are concerned with the questions of causation, function, ontogeny and phylogeny of the behavioural characteristics of this particular species.

Additional Comments?

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